

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 29 and 33 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 8, and 11 through 23 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus ~~having~~ which uses a spooler to function for temporarily save saving output intermediate data for output of document data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:

~~an image data generator configured to generate image data on the basis of the temporarily saved intermediate data;~~

~~a previewer configured to; read out image data and perform a preview operation when display of a print image of the document data is designated by the print instruction, issue an image generation request in accordance with the print instruction, and displaying a preview window representing the print image of the document data on the basis of acquired preview display information; and~~

~~a print processor processing controller configured to activate said previewer if the previewer is set so as to display the preview when said print processor is activated by the spooler, control said image data generator so as to generate a preview file the image data in response to issuing of an [the] image generation request by said previewer, cause an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notifying notify said previewer of the a file identifier of said preview file, preview display information based on the generated image data, and thus controlling said previewer so as to display a preview representing the print image.~~

wherein said previewer reads outs the image data based on the file identifier sent by said print processor, and performs the preview operation.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation request issued by said previewer includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and said print processor ~~processing controller~~ controls said image data generator so as to generate the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation request issued by said previewer includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and said print processor ~~processing controller~~ controls ~~said the~~ image data generator so as to generate image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation request issued by said previewer includes the number of colors used for bitmap data stored in a print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print processor ~~processing controller~~ creates a designated number of files for saving the generated image data generated by ~~said the~~ image data generator, and stores the preview display information based on the generated image data in the file, and when preview display is designated by the print instruction and preview display information corresponding to the designated print image is stored in the file, said previewer displays ~~the a~~ preview window representing the print image on the basis of the information read out from the file.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about whether print data to be printed is temporarily saved as intermediate data, said print processor ~~processing controller~~ sends a reply to the inquiry.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing ~~the~~ a target document data, said print processor ~~processing controller~~ sends a reply to the inquiry.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print processor ~~processing controller~~ ~~so controls as to generate the image data by said image data generator on the basis of the temporarily saved intermediate data in accordance with a print start request, and controls a printing apparatus so as to print~~ the saved image data in accordance with a print start request on the basis of the generated image data.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A print control method of controlling an apparatus which uses a spooler temporarily to save intermediate data for output ~~displaying a preview representing a print image of document data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:~~
~~a generation step of, when display of a print image of the document data is designated by the print instruction, causing image data generator to generate image data on the basis of output intermediate data of temporarily saved document data in accordance with the print instruction; and~~
an activating step of activating a previewer if set to a preview display when a print processor is activated by the spooler;

a processing step of generating a preview file in response to the issuing of an image generation request by the previewer, causing an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notifying the previewer of a file identifier of the preview file in response to an image generation request from the previewer activated in said activating step;

a reading step of reading the image data from the preview file based upon the file identifier; and

a display displaying step of displaying the ~~generated~~ image data on a display.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein in said the processing generation step, the image data generator generates the image data at a designated size or resolution.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein in said the processing generation step, the image data generator generates image data corresponding to a page number designated by a total number of pages to be printed as an image data generation object based on the intermediate data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the said processing generation step, the image generation request issued by the previewer includes the image data generator generates the image data by a designated number of colors used for bitmap data stored in a print image file or a subtractive process used to create bitmap data.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein
in the said processing generation step, a designated number of files for saving the
image data generated by the image data generator ~~are~~ is created to store the generated image data
in the file, and

in the ~~display~~ displaying step, when image data corresponding to a preview display
designated print image is stored in the file, a preview window representing the print image is
displayed on the basis of the image data read out from the file.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable
medium, for print control ~~which runs in~~ operating under an operating system included in a
computer, which uses a spooler provided by the operating system for temporarily storing
intermediate data to be output, said program enabling a computer to perform a method
~~environment having an output intermediate data spool function in a computer~~, comprising:

~~a program code for an image data generation function of generating image data on the
basis of intermediate data spooled by the spool function;~~

~~a program code for a preview function of, when display of a print image of document
data is designated by a print instruction, issuing an image generation request in accordance with
the print instruction, and displaying a preview window representing the print image of the
document data on the basis of acquired preview display information; and~~

~~a program code for a processing control function of controlling the image generation
function so as to generate the image data in response to issuing of the image generation request,
and controlling the preview function so as to display a preview representing the print image by
notifying the preview function of the preview display information based on the generated image
data.~~

an activating step of activating a previewer if set to preview display when a print
processor is activated by the spooler;

a processing step of generating a preview file in response to the issuing of an image generation request by the previewer, causing an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notifying the previewer of a file identifier of the preview file in response to an image generation request from the previewer activated in said activating step;

a reading step of reading the image data from the preview file based upon the file identifier; and

a displaying step of displaying the image data.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein the image generation request issued by the previewer ~~preview function~~ includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and

~~the program code for in said~~ the processing step control function is ~~executed to control~~ the image data generator ~~generation function so as to generate~~ generates the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein the image generation request issued by the previewer ~~preview function~~ includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and

~~the program code for in the said~~ processing step control function is ~~executed to control~~ the image data generator ~~generation function so as to generate~~ generates image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein the image generation request issued by the previewer ~~preview function~~ includes the number of colors

used for bitmap data stored in a print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein ~~the program code for in said~~ the processing step control function is ~~executed to create~~ a designated number of files for saving the image data generated by the image data generator ~~are created to~~ generation function, and store the ~~preview display information based on~~ the generated image data in the file, and

the displaying step ~~program code for the preview function~~ is executed to, when image data corresponding to a preview display is ~~designated by the print instruction and preview display information corresponding to the~~ designated print image is stored in the file, display a ~~the~~ preview window representing the print image on the basis of the image data information read out from the file.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein ~~the said processing step~~ program code for the processing control function is executed to, when the previewer preview function issues an inquiry about whether print data to be printed is temporarily saved as intermediate data, send a reply to the inquiry.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 21, wherein ~~the said processing step~~ program code for the processing control function is executed to, when the previewer preview function issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing the target document data, send a reply to the inquiry.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein ~~the~~
~~said processing step~~ program code for the processing control function is executed to control so as
to generate the image data by the image data generator ~~generation function~~ on the basis of the
temporarily saved intermediate data in accordance with a print start request, and control a
printing apparatus so as to print on the basis of the generated image data.

24. (Original) A computer readable storage medium which stores codes of a
computer program defined in claim 16.

25 - 34. (Cancelled)